

THE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION*To the Editor:*

I enjoyed reading the Special Article written by Dr. S. W. A. Gunn on the Canadian contribution to W.H.O. (*Canad. Med. Ass. J.*, 99: 1080, 1968). At the bottom of p. 1087 special reference is made to the Virus Laboratory acting in collaboration with W.H.O. It may not be generally known that our own National Reference Laboratories have also been designated by W.H.O. as the National Blood Grouping Laboratories in Canada. Since Dr. Gunn was merely quoting examples I suppose we could not necessarily expect him to specify the Red Cross Laboratories. This is an excellent reference article and I think the author is to be congratulated on his research.

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*To the Editor:*

Other correspondents have testified to the value of Dr. S. W. A. Gunn's article on Canadian contributions to W.H.O. (*Canad. Med. Ass. J.*, 99: 1080, 1968), but a perusal of his nominal rolls calls for commendation of a long succession of Ministers of National Health and Welfare. The make-up of Canada's delegations to 23 plenary sessions of the Organization show the widely representative nature of our delegates. A consequence of this is the knowledge and interest which have been created from coast to coast. At seven of these gatherings the C.M.A. was represented by officers or officials at the request of the Minister. Many national medical associations would envy this evidence of confidence which permits non-government people to work in a conclave which most countries reserve for politicians and civil servants.

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## BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

*To the Editor:*

Re: the CBC TV documentary "The Public Eye", on Biological Warfare.

Few things that I have seen on television have horrified me as much. I believe this documentary was extremely well done indeed.

An end to such vile weapons. I hope as Canadians we may use all our good offices and influences to see that such weapons are never used again.

I know this must be the aim of The Canadian Medical Association.

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## AEQUANIMITAS

## REMOTE CONTROL

I have never supinely yielded myself to the psychiatrist's couch. This is partly because I never had the time for such indulgence but mainly because I have not been aware of the need to bolster my ego or to explain the underlying motives for my erratic behaviour. I hope that I may say without condescension that some of my best friends are psychiatrists, and I want it clearly understood that I was not the author of the remark that I would not want my daughter to marry one of them.

However, I have recently discovered that one of my friends keeps his eye on my mental health by reading these weekly encyclicals. He says that several times he has been on the point of inviting me in for group therapy but by the time he got round to it, the next column revealed to him a basically well-adjusted personality and a sunny disposition.

I've got news for him. These essays are inscribed sporadically and compulsively and their date of publication bears no relationship to the topic or to the event which sparked their production. The exigencies of medical journalism dictate when trivia appear in print and the decision is more often than not made on the copy fitting an available amount of space than on the message.

Furthermore, my friend's supervision is based on inadequate evidence because the Editor wisely suppresses the pieces which reveal the writer in a particularly unfavourable light. The lower left drawer of his desk is crammed with gloomy essays depicting my reactionary attitude to rebellious undergraduates and my total lack of comprehension of their motives in stirring up trouble. The collection includes angry, dire and petulant reactions to the messing of politicians in the field of health and even depressing glimpses of my unfavourable prognosis for peace in the world. After all, one can't constantly be thinking about such pleasant subjects as roses, dogs and booze, nor is it possible to count on chance encounters in reading about interesting personalities and historical curiosities. Froth and bubbles are all very well, but a pencil in hand is an instrument which discloses the writer's true image, warts and all.

This has turned out to be an exercise in self-analysis, and I reluctantly conclude that I do need the help which modern psychiatry can provide, particularly since the computer has been recognized as a diagnostic tool. Miss Jones, please make an appointment and if the consultant does not accept patients off the street, I can suggest a number of colleagues who would be glad to refer me.

A.D.K.